

To: Iris A. Fuller, Excc. Director
Thursday's Child
227 Tunxis Avenue
Bloomfield, CT 06002

Dear Iris,

I was dumbfounded to learn of the possibility of new regulations regarding International Adoptions. Rather than helping, I believe they would ring a death knell for a system which has worked so well for a long time. If its not broken don't "fix" it.

As you know my work in International Adoptions years ago gives me a frame of reference in which to view these proposed new rules. My experience was that people involved in smaller agencies were the most dedicated, the most careful and the most child-centered of any working in the field. Their sensitivity to the children and their plights and to the families who would take on the most important work in the world, child rearing, was not duplicated in any large agency, private or governmental.

I recognize that people involved in the smaller agencies sacrifice much in terms of pay, benefits, and time just to be able to do such important work. They provide a wealth of services and charitable work that would be lost to our country and the other countries involved. It always amazes me that bureaucrats can takes something that works perfectly well and turn it into a nonfunctional mess. This is indeed a case where the "cure" is far worse than any perceived problem.

But most of all I am heartsick to think of the wonderful, innocent children who will never have the chance to be loved and cared for as part of a family. Only those who have never known hunger and deprivation, who have never been cold and abandoned, could conceive the proposals which would ultimately ruin the agencies that offer hope to these children.

I am not religious, nor do I pray, but right now I'm praying with all my heart that the door to a decent human life is not closed to all the children in the future who would be affected by these new proposals. In my opinion this would be nothing less than a crime against humanity no matter how anyone tries to justify it. I wish you and your fellow agencies success in fighting for the children and the families who you serve now and who you would serve in the future..

With kindest regards and much admiration,
Your supporter in child welfare,


Melvina Strijdonk R.N.